

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-53. (Canceled)

Claim 54. (New) A method of mounting a cardiac harness on the heart, comprising:

- a. creating a minimally invasive access site;
- b. providing a cardiac harness configured for minimally invasive delivery to the heart;
- c. creating a small incision in the pericardium of the heart; and
- d. mounting the cardiac harness on the heart by sliding the cardiac harness through the small incision in the pericardium and over the epicardial surface of the heart.

55. (New) The method of claim 54, wherein the cardiac harness is positioned between the epicardium and the pericardium.

56. (New) The method of claim 54, wherein prior to sliding the cardiac harness through the small incision in the pericardium, the heart is slightly elongated.

57. (New) The method of claim 54, wherein prior to sliding the cardiac harness through the small incision in the pericardium, the heart is tensioned.

58. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the heart is tensioned by manipulating a suction device attached to the heart.

59. (New) The method of claim 58, wherein the suction device is attached to the apex of the heart.

60. (New) The method of claim 54, wherein prior to sliding the cardiac harness through the small incision in the pericardium, a suction device is attached to the heart to provide traction for sliding the cardiac harness over the epicardium.

61. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein the suction device is releasably attached to the apex of the heart.

62. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein the suction device is releasably attached to the epicardial surface of the heart at the apex.

63. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein the suction device is released from the epicardial surface of the heart after the cardiac harness is mounted on the heart.

64. (New) The method of claim 54, wherein the heart continues beating as the cardiac harness is mounted on the heart.

65. (New) The method of claim 54, wherein the minimally invasive access site is created between the ribs.

66. (New) The method of claim 65, wherein the minimally invasive access site created between the ribs is positioned to provide access to the thoracic cavity.

67. (New) A method of mounting a cardiac harness on the heart, comprising:

- a. creating a minimally invasive access site between the ribs for gaining access to the thoracic cavity;
- b. creating an incision in the pericardium of the heart, the incision being sized to permit a cardiac harness having a compressed configuration to extend therethrough;
- c. acquiring purchase of the heart; and
- d. mounting the cardiac harness on the heart by sliding the cardiac harness through the incision in the pericardium and over the epicardial surface of the heart.

68. (New) The method of claim 67, wherein the cardiac harness is positioned between the epicardium and the pericardium.

69. (New) The method of claim 67, wherein prior to sliding the cardiac harness through the incision in the pericardium, the heart is tensioned.

70. (New) The method of claim 69, wherein the heart is tensioned by manipulating a suction device attached to the heart.

71. (New) The method of claim 70, wherein the suction device is attached to the apex of the heart.

72. (New) The method of claim 67, wherein prior to sliding the cardiac harness through the incision in the pericardium, a suction device is attached to the heart to provide traction for sliding the cardiac harness over the epicardium.

73. (New) The method of claim 72, wherein the suction device is releasably attached to the apex of the heart.

74. (New) The method of claim 73, wherein the suction device is released from the epicardial surface of the heart after the cardiac harness is mounted on the heart.

75. (New) The method of claim 67, wherein the heart continues beating as the cardiac harness is mounted on the heart.

76. (New) The method of claim 67, wherein acquiring purchase of the heart is performed on a beating heart.

77. (New) The method of claim 76, wherein a manipulating device is used for acquiring purchase of the heart.

78. (New) The method of claim 77, wherein the manipulating device is releasably attached to the apex of the heart.